

Abstract

The present invention relates to compositions comprising one or more
connective tissue derived polypeptides having a molecular weight of less than
30,000Da that are capable of tolerising individuals to antigenic components of
cartilage and prevent the appearance of and/or treat symptoms of arthritis and
5 other musculoskeletal degenerative conditions. The present invention provides
methods for recovering polypeptides having a molecular weight of less than
30,000Da from connective tissue and having anti-arthritic or anti-inflammatory
activity. The present invention further relates to compositions comprising a
polypeptide containing an NC4 domain of collagen type IX alpha 1 chain or
10 fragment thereof, having a molecular weight of less than 30,000Da, where the
polypeptide is capable of tolerising individuals to antigenic components of
cartilage, preventing the appearance of arthritic symptoms, and/or treating the
symptoms of arthritis.

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